

# THE UTE INFLUENCE AND HISTORY IN COLORADO AGRICULTURE

## MONTEZUMA COUNTY (DELTA, MESA)

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### PROJECT INTRODUCTION

Colorado State University is a land-grant institution that has a land acknowledgment. To hold CSU accountable to this acknowledgment, connections need to be made with the Native Nations that once inhabited this land. The two federally recognized tribes in Colorado are the Southern Ute and the Ute Mountain Ute. Due to colonization and assimilation, the Ute tribes' history often goes unknown. Furthermore, the number of tribal members that are fluent in the language is decreasing every year. This project is looking at the history of the Ute People, with a focus on the Ute Mountain Ute.

### INTERNSHIP GOALS

My main goal was to learn the history of the Ute People in a meaningful and respectful way. My second goal was to build upon the connection between CSU Extension and the Ute People. My third goal was to learn the agricultural system of the Ute before and after colonization. The last goal was to translate this poster into one that consists of the Ute language.

### EDUCATIONAL APPLICATION

Throughout my time at CSU, I have learned that I am passionate about agriculture and being an advocate for Native Americans. Although I am knowledgeable about the history of the Navajo Nation, I lack knowledge about other tribes. Since I plan on collaborating with other tribes in the future, it is beneficial for me to learn how to connect with other tribes now. Also, I was able to tour different farms and research stations which contributed to my interest of learning more about the crop side of agriculture.

### REFLECTION

I focused on learning the history of the land and the people during my internship instead of trying to get results. I did not want to be an outsider, come into the community, take what I need then leave. I am very thankful for the Ute Mountain Ute community for being very welcoming, and I had great informal conversations. The roots have been growing and I hope CSU Extension can continue to build stronger connections with the Ute People.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SUMMER



Attended the Bear Dance which is the celebration of spring.

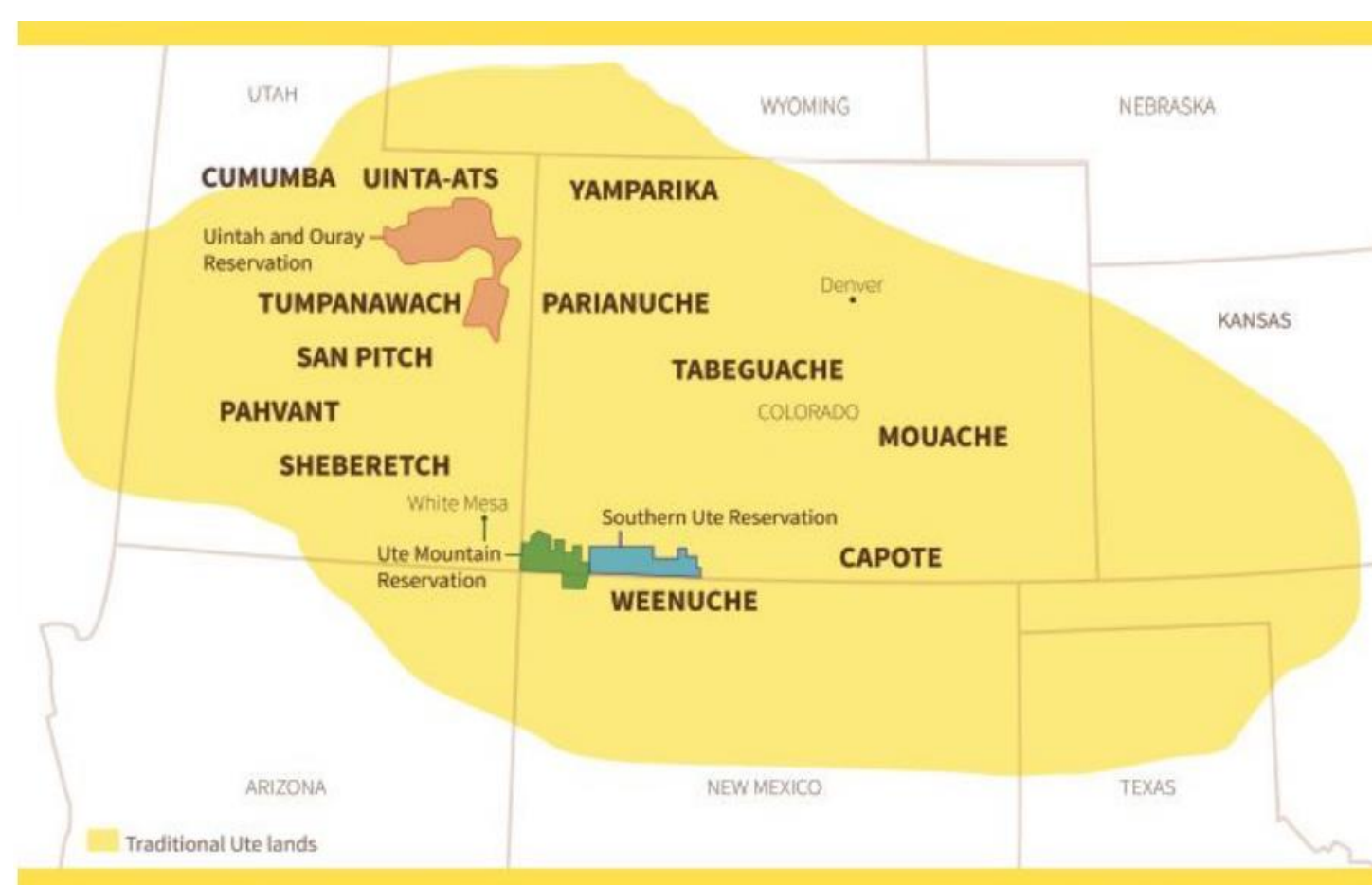


Toured the research stations on the Western Slope.



Helped with the ISTAR (Indigenous, Science, Technology, Art, and Resilience) Youth Camp.

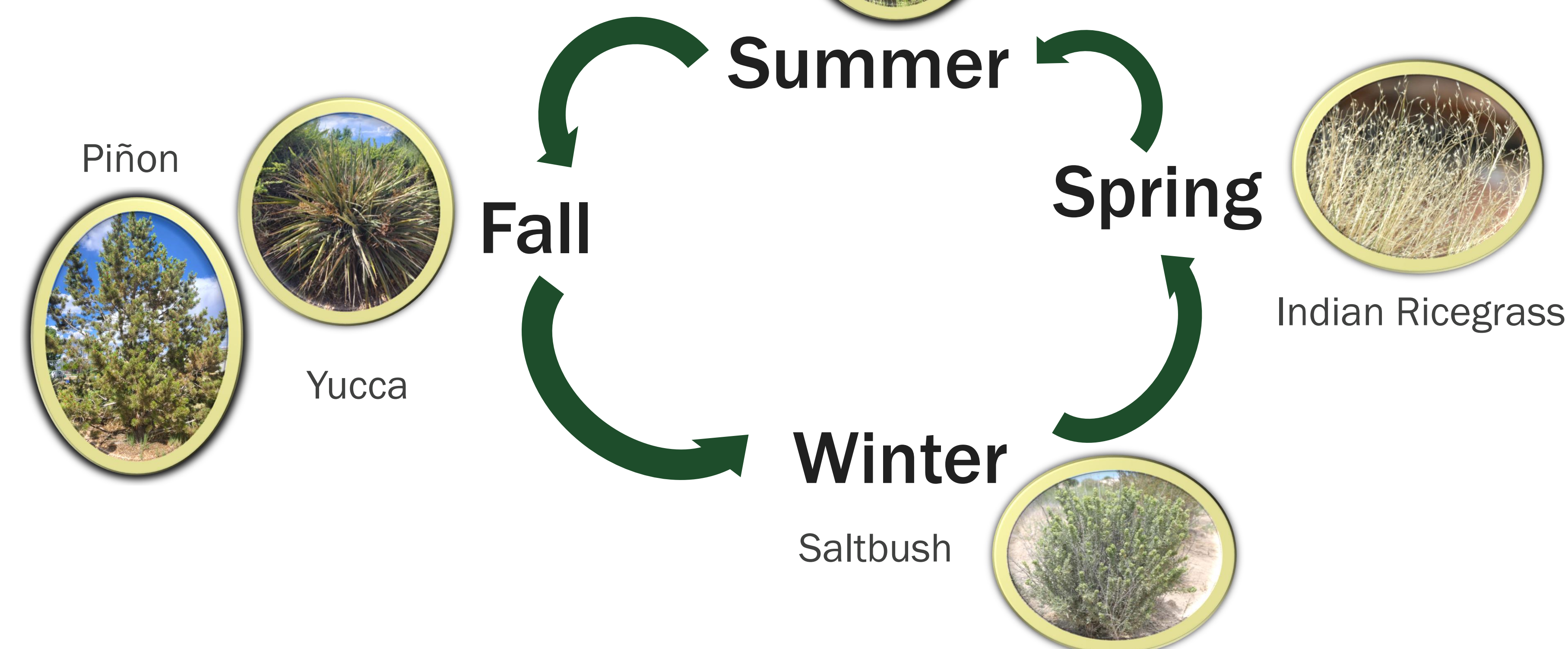
### WHAT I LEARNED



The yellow represents the historical homeland while the other colors represent the current reservations.

#### Then:

The Ute used to move based on the seasons.



#### Today:

The Ute Mountain Ute own and operate a 7,700-acre irrigated farm. The crops with the most fields are winter wheat, oats, and fallow.



On the map of the farm below, each color represents a different crop.

